

## Freedom of Choice for Space Operations

Background: NPG 7120.5A (Sections 2.1.5c and 3.1.5c) requires all programs/projects to develop requirements during mission formulation for space operations services from the NASA Space Operations Management Office (SOMO). Services provided by SOMO include support for communications, tracking, mission operations, flight dynamics, and data processing. NPG 7120.5A requires projects to use SOMO services unless a more cost-effective life cycle can be proposed.

Programs/projects are thus free to propose use of services from sources other than SOMO. Projects should conduct trade studies on the use of SOMO-provided services versus any proposed alternatives. NASA-initiated projects (e.g., strategic plan missions) should conduct such trade studies in Phase A. Competitively selected projects (PI class missions) may optionally conduct such studies in Phase A, but should conduct such studies no later than Phase B. In general, SOMO-provided services should be employed whenever they meet mission objectives at a life-cycle cost to the project or to the Enterprise that is less than or equal to any proposed alternatives. SOMO will assist NASA projects and PI missions in identifying SOMO services, prices, and cost trades.

If the Enterprise and SOMO agree that the project or PI approach does not result in the lowest life cycle cost, the Enterprise may direct the project/PI to modify their approach. If the SOMO approach increases the project/PI cost but reduces cost to the Enterprise, any funding impacts to the project/PI will be resolved by the Enterprise.

If a trend towards project/PI-unique solutions appears to reduce individual mission costs but increases total cost to NASA by not utilizing shared services and facilities, any resolution using the appropriate NASA-wide services strategy will be implemented in a manner in which the Enterprise shares in the cost savings.

If SOMO and the Enterprise can not agree on which alternative is more cost effective, the Space Operations Council will resolve the issue.

Agreed:        Paul Hertz, Guenter Riegler (OSS)  
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